

PERPETUAL YOUTH.

We said there is a fountain in Flower Land—
He Leon found it—where Old Age away
Leaves weary mind and heart, and fresh as day
Springs from the dark, and joins Aurora's hand;
This tale, transformed by some skilled trouvère's
wand.
From the old myth in a Greek poet's lay,
Looks on no truth. Change bodies as Time may,
Souls do not change, though heavy to his hand.
Who of us needs this fount? What soul is old?
Our mere morn age, and still we grow more young.
For in our winter we talk most of spring;
And as we near, slow tottering, God's safe fold,
Young ones grow nearer—though
The seeming dead, youth's songs more clear
they sing.
—Maurice Francis Egan in the Century.

STORIES OF DEPRAVED APPETITE.

Beads That Eat Odd Things—Stomach of the Elephant, Cow and Ostrich.

"It is truly astonishing what curious things are found in the stomachs of elephants," said Superintendent Conklin of the Central Park menagerie, as he read the story from Bridges' *at about the finding of an ivory idol and other curiosities in the stomachs of the elephants that were killed in the fire at Barnum's winter quarters.* "I doubt very much about the stories being found, but as to the knives, piece of bad pipe, and the coins, that is quite common."

"I had an elephant here, and when he died there was at least \$10 worth of coins found in his stomach. Some of the coins were English pennies, threepenny pieces; some were German coins and others were the coins of various European countries, and Chinese coins were also found."

"Another elephant we had here was crazy for hats. The boys had great fun throwing each other's hats into the enclosure. The elephant would just put out his trunk and in a twinkling the hat was gone. One day a gentleman's silk hat flew off. The elephant picked it up and disposed of it as quickly as he did of the draw hats of the children."

"It seems that the elephant's stomach will take anything. Anything but metal seems to pass away without causing the animal any pain, but it appears that the gastric juices only tend to oxidize carbon and the like, and they remain in the beast's stomach until death."

"Cows are the only other animals that have a fancy for disposing of foreign substances. All other animals reject any foreign substance that may pass down the throat."

"I should judge the elephant's tasting powers are limited, because he gobbles up everything that is offered him."

"The ostrich is just about as careless of what he swallows as the elephant. He takes in anything he can catch, and more curious things have been found in the stomach of the biped than that of the quadruped."

Charles Beiche, the dealer in animals, not only corroborated Mr. Conklin's experiences, but related some of his own experiences in that line. "Once we had an elephant," he said, "that took part in the first Flanders' Volksfest ever held in this city. Out at the park we had the animal on exhibition. A lady held out her pocketbook, and the elephant took it in his trunk, and before the woman could realize what a foolish thing she had done the purse was safely stowed away under the ribs of the big brute. I had to give her twenty-five cents to go home with."

"If a man held out a loaded pistol that elephant would have swallowed it. Another time one of the keepers left his lunch for a second, and half an hour later knife on the top, tamale, cloth, jack knife and everything else at once disappeared down the elephant's throat, and he never seemed to suffer from it. Elephants must have armor plated stomachs, for they take in everything from a lady's hairpin to a wooden image."

"Then you believe the sacred elephant swallowed the idol as reported?"

"I certainly do. The sacred elephant would just as soon pick up a stray god as he would a banana or orange." —New York Press.

English Father and Spanish Mother.

An English father has light hair and blue eyes, a Spanish mother black locks, an iris dark as night, and a full olive colored southern complexion. Clearly the children may differ indefinitely in appearance; some with dark eyes, some with lighter; some as men may grow dark brown beards; and some may have black whiskers and hazel eyes and clear, half Spanish, dusky skin. One may have wavy hair like the mother, yet almost as light in hue as the father's; another may have it rather straight, but dark. Similarly, too, with the features. The forehead and chin may resemble the father, and nose and mouth may rather approximate to the maternal pattern.

So, at least, we often say in our folly; but, in reality, when we come to examine closely we see that no single feature even owes everything absolutely to one parent only. Those dark eyes may indeed be Spanish in color, with a gleam of bull fighting in their cruel depths; but they are set in the blear after an English pattern and have an English solidity of Philistine hardness. That pretty little nose may have much of the father in the bridge and the tip, but don't you catch faint hints of the mother, too, in the quivering nostril and the expanded wings? The chin recalls an Andalusian type, to be sure, but the tiny fold of flesh beneath foreshadows the fat, double crease of later life derived from that old, burly, Lincolnshire grandfather. And so on throughout.—Cornhill Magazine.

Indian Student Making Music.

One of the irrepressible Indian boy students was discovered the other evening, sitting at the organ "playing by note" most carefully and, under the circumstances, probably correctly. He seemed so intent upon his "notes" that the teacher's attention was drawn to them. To her great amusement she found he had standing on the music rack before him a large, square piece of corn bread, cut open between the crusts, opened like a book, with beans arranged in irregular lines along the soft inside, somewhat after the manner of notes on a staff, and it was from this extraordinary book that he was "making music" to the words of "Way Down Upon the Suwanee River"—Hampton School Record.

The Electric Scarf Pin.

The electric "star scarf pin and pocket battery" is a device that is rapidly becoming popular. The battery, which is made to fit the pocket, is four inches long by four inches wide and three-quarters of an inch deep, and is connected with the scarf pin, which resembles a diamond cluster, by means of a very fine silk covered wire. By compressing the lid of the battery box a spark is produced that rivals in brilliancy the flash of the purest diamonds. These pocket batteries have been used in the ballets at some of the theatres with dazzling effect. —New York Press.

DISTRIBUTION OF CANCER.

Some Interesting Facts Which Science Does Not Satisfactorily Explain.

There are some curious and interesting facts in regard to the geographical distribution of cancer which science as yet does not satisfactorily explain. The last census of the United States demonstrates that this disease is especially prevalent in the New England states and on the southern Pacific coast, that it is prevalent in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and in the interior of Michigan and the southern part of Wisconsin, and that it is least prevalent upon the Mississippi and in the south, and that the proportions are generally lower in the coast regions than in the interior.

An examination of the reports of death from cancer in England and Wales made by Dr. Haviland leads him to conclusions quite in accord with those derived from our own census. Both banks of the Tweed near Berwick, and of the Tyne at Newcastle, some parts of Yorkshire and the whole of the beautiful Lake District are fertile beds of cancer. The Isle of Wight is all free from this disease, while it is common in Brighton, Folkestone, Dover, Ramsgate and Margate. Statistics also demonstrate, as other facts have seemed to prove, that density of population, poor living and laborious toil have little to do with the development and appearance of cancer.

This in London, in which as a whole cancer is very prevalent, the parish of St. Luke, the neighborhood of Bishopsgate street, crowded Bethnal Green, the Isle of Dog, Southwark and Bermondsey are almost exempt from this disease, but in the respectable parts of the metropolis, about the Marylebone road, Regent's park and Primrose Hill it is exceptionally frequent.

In Liverpool, which has a large mortality from other causes of death, as shown by the fact that, with a population of 552,000 in 1878, the number of deaths exceeded those of the total number of the births by 1,099, the percentage of death from cancer was exceptionally small. In the future it may be discovered that the localities where the prevalence of this disease is most frequent have certain characteristics in common which science may overcome, and thus notably diminish this tendency in such localities.

In the report on the vital statistics of the United States of the tenth census in 1880, it is remarked that the peculiarities of the differences in mortality from cancer in different localities may be partly explained by differences in the population of these localities as regards race and age. It is a disease which is much less frequent in the colored than in the white race, hence the mortality from it is greater in the north than in the south. It causes the greatest proportion of deaths where there are the greatest proportion of people of advanced age, that is to say, in the New England states. Hence in any given locality, a large proportion of deaths from cancer indicates to a certain extent that the locality is a metropolis and a long settled one and has a large proportion of inhabitants of an advanced age.—New York Tribune.

Post Drivers of South Siberia.

The horses on the post roads in southern and western Siberia and Russia are a very different species from the Yakkot animals. They are more like the horses of other civilized countries. Their special peculiarity is that the moment they see a sled rising before them they become almost wild with excitement and ambition, and dash at it full speed until the summit is reached or their strength is exhausted. The post drivers are also a wild set, and make runs of wood sled with strips of jaw-bone of the whale or a sort of hard driftwood found on the northeastern coast of Siberia. The bed or platform is supported by uprights let into and lashed to runners.

DOGS AND SLEDGES.

HOW THE ESKIMO DRIVER MANAGES HIS TEAM OF DOGS.

The Long Sleds of the Kinnepatoons—Patterns in Use by the Traders of Kamchatka and Alaska—Northern Siberia. The McClintock Model.

Eskimo dogs have each a harness with loops that pass around the neck and under each leg, uniting on the back and fastened to a long trace of sealskin about a third of an inch wide. The traces are of various lengths, so that when hitched to the sled the dogs can spread out like a fan. They are guided by the voice of the driver, whose commands are enforced with a whip, the handle of which is about eighteen inches in length, and the lash from eighteen to thirty feet long. The dogs in Siberia are harnessed in pairs on either side of a long line of walrus skin and are trained to obey the driver's voice. The driver controls the movements of the sled with a stout stick shed with iron, which he uses as a brake.

In crossing rough ice the Kinnepatoons Eskimos, of Hudson Bay, use a sled about eighteen inches wide and from thirty to forty feet long. This is intended to ride across the hummocks with a much steadier motion than a short sled, which is constantly pitching about, and, under such circumstances, very hard to draw and extremely difficult to handle. The long sleds of the Kinnepatoons glide very smoothly and rapidly over rough ice, and are easily managed. They are made with solid plank runners, sometimes spliced to secure greater length, and are shed with more and ice.

IN SIBERIA AND ALASKA.

The Russian traders and settlers in Kamchatka and Alaska have several patterns of sleds. The one upon which heavy loads are drawn is a trestlework of strong wood lashed with rawhide thongs. It is very light, runs smoothly and is not easily broken. At Petropavlovski, in Kamchatka, I also procured a small sled of basketwork, which was made somewhat in the shape of a large saddle, with very tight pommel and cramp. It is designed to carry one person only, who sits astride of it and rests his feet on the runners. This can be used only for light work, and on short rapid journeys, for it has no place wherein to carry any load.

The sled used by the tribes in Northern Siberia combines the excellencies of the long sled of the Kinnepatoons, the trestle-work sled of the Russian traders and the McClintock sled, used by most all British explorers. It is made with thin broad runners of wood shed with strips of jaw-bone of the whale or a sort of hard driftwood found on the northeastern coast of Siberia. The bed or platform is supported by uprights let into and lashed to runners.

THE MCCLINTOCK SLED.

The sled most approved by modern explorers of Arctic North America is known as the "McClintock sled," and was designed and used by Admiral Sir Leopold McClintock, of the Royal navy, on all his Arctic journeys. It is made with runners of hard wood, with uprights and cross-pieces of the same material mortised and riveted, and the runners shed with hoop iron, are bent up front and rear so that the sled can be drawn equally well with either end in front. My experience with sleds of this pattern has been that though, perhaps, excellent where men are used in the harness, they are not good sleds. They are also liable to break where the internal strain is great on the parts that are mortised together, therefore their use is not advisable on long journeys.

Besides the various sleds already described, I have seen musk ox, reindeer, bear and seal skins temporarily used for that purpose, and after the snow melted and the floods subsided in Central Siberia, I have also enjoyed rest for my weary limbs on heavy sleds drawn by bulls over the muddy and slippery land. With such a large variety to choose from, I have no hesitation in expressing my unqualified preference for all purposes of hard work in the land of ice and snow for the Telekhetski driftwood sleds, both large and small, which combine the greatest amount of strength and elasticity with the least weight, while at the same time they are less likely to be broken, and when broken, more readily repaired than any others I have used or seen. The model can scarcely be improved upon, but the driftwood used by those poor savages in the absence of other material might advantageously be replaced with tough young hickory or other woods from more temperate climates.—William H. Gilder, U. S. N. in The Century.

WRITING UP AN INTERVIEW.

I must have been a very simple little fellow when I first went to the school. A boy of the name of Garnett took me into a cake shop one day and bought some cakes for which he did not pay, as the shopman trusted him. When we came out I asked him why he did not pay for them, and he instantly answered, "Why, do you not know that my uncle left a great sum of money to the town on condition that every tradesman should give whatever was wanted without payment to any one who wore his old hat and moved [REDACTED] in a particular manner?" and he then showed me how it was moved. He then went into another shop where he was trusted and asked for some small article, moving his hat in the proper manner, and, of course, obtained it without payment. When we came out he said: "Now, if you like to go by yourself into that cake shop" (how well I remember its exact position, "I will lend you my hat, and you can get whatever you want if you move the hat on your head properly." I gladly accepted the generous offer, and went in and asked for some cakes, moved the old hat, and was walking out of the shop, when the shopman made a rush at me, so I dropped the cakes and ran for dear life, and was astonished by being greeted by shouts of laughter by my false friend Garnett.—"Boycold of Darwin," by himself, in Popular Science Monthly.

IN A JAPANESE HOUSE.

The greatest trial in living in a Japanese house is the putting on and off of the shoes before one sets foot on the outer veranda of polished wood. He must either go stockinged foot in the house or have some specially soft shoes without heels, as our dirty foreign boot soles scratch the polished wood floors, indent and eat the soft straw mats, and ruin things quickly. The Japanese are very exacting about it, too, and there is always some one bowing and smiling and waiting to unbuck one at the threshold, and head off in attempt to slip in booted.—Ruhm, in The Globe-Democrat.

Passive Beauty of Peasant Women.

One sees many very beautiful women among the Croats and Slavonians. It is quite surprising the number of lovely faces that are to be seen in a gathering of Croatian peasants.

The beauty of these countries inclines to the passive, that madonna-like style of loveliness in which figure dreamy, gaze like eyes and an expression of languor that tells of gentleness personified. In Servia and Roumania, too, one finds this type of beauty prevalent, and in these Balkan states, so recently dominated by the Turks, the women still possess a timid, retiring disposition that causes them to go about with half veiled faces. The legacy of Osmanli dominion imparts to the Serv and Roumanian maiden the additional charm of mystery. One sees two heavy braids of dark hair descending, and a pair of large languishing black eyes lighting up features that are half concealed behind a veil of tulle.—Thomas Stevens in Courier-Journal.

There are 900 beet factories in Europe. France manufactures 600,000 tons of this sugar and Germany 1,021,000 tons.

LIGHT AND AIRY.

WHY THE BAD BOY IS GOOD.

New doth the wicked Little boy
Who to Sunday school never goes,
Hunt up the nearest gospel shop
And thither turn his toes.

Be sits beside the real good child,
Who's been there all the year;
And snickers in his sleeve, to think
How green he doth appear.

But when the Christmas tree doth come,
The bad boy gets the shates;
The good boy gets a Christmas card
And a two cent box of dates.

—Danbury Democrat.

ONLY ONE WAY.

A tall Missourian called at the district school, and, eyeing the teacher, said: "My son Harry tells me you whipped him last evening."

"Yes," assented the teacher, edging toward the door, "but he deserved it, I assure you."

"And say he used a rawhide on him?"

"Yes, sir, but—"

"And you slapped him with your hands as well?"

"I did, but I assure you—"

"Assure nothing. Let me give you a point.

"When you have to punish that boy use a club; he doesn't care a darn for rawhides."

—Nebraska State Journal.

THE VERY BEST OYSTERS.

Received daily, served steamed and in every other style. Restaurant open from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. St. Louis Beer on draught at E. A. St. L. & Co.'s corner of Eighth and Main streets.

FAVORITES IN FURNITURE.

Mahogany is the popular wood for this season.

A carved footstool has its sides in embossed brass.

Fourteenth century chairs are returning to favor.

Cabinets and toilet tables of paper mache are once more in use.

Parlor suits of six pieces, no two alike, are in fashion and in favor.

Furniture carvers should be careful not to make their cutting too deep.

Desks for offices and rooms are made to contain a concealed washstand.

A hat rack is provided with protruding oval ends of nickel plated wire for silk hats.

Dwarf book cases, elaborately carved and gilded, are to be seen in the most expensive houses.

Table beds are new. They are converted from one to the other readily, and may be used as either.

Bronze cabinets are quite pretty and quite stylish; pillars have fluted capitals, panels of antique design, etc.

A dressing table has a double top, the upper divided in the middle and opening to right and left on hinges.

Furniture may be painted the most effectively by raking down each coat, as is done in varnish painting.

Furniture of the toniest quality are made from beech wood and upholstered in pink and blue, with golden fringe.

Jewel caskets of tortoise shell, with four drawers, are neat and expensive. They make excellent Christmas presents.

Drawing room tables of unique appearance are made from coarse Irish slabs of light greenish yellow and bound by wires of red.

A new color to stain wood is a rich violet, and the stain is glue made. The wood is treated with a bath of four and one-half ounces of olive oil, some of soda ash and two and one-half ounces of boiling water. It is then dyed with magenta.

Folding beds are selling well about the holiday season. There is considerable mechanical ingenuity displayed in their construction. One well known as the residence of a wealthy gentleman, has a folding bed in every apartment, thus making each room a parlor.—New York Mail and Express.

WAVING GLOVES OF SWEDISH KID OR TINSEL DRESSED DOGS ARE WORN WITH GRIMES COSTUMES. THESE COME IN MOST OF THE CLOTH SHOPS TO MATCH THE TOE.

NOTICE.—WILLIAM T. CRAWFORD IS HEREBY APPOINTED MY AGENT TO CARRY ON THE BAR AND BILLIARD SALOON HERETOFORE KEPT BY CRAWFORD & LALLY ON FIFTEENTH STREET IN ST. CHARLES HOTEL BUILDING, TO BUY AND SELL FOR CASH ONLY.

—WILLIAM SNEELINGS, MICHAEL E. LALLY.

TO